

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BONN 04097 01 OF 02 121730Z

50

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 CEA-01 NIC-01 /095 W  
----- 012671

R 121717Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8643

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04097

E.O. 11652:N/A

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BONN 04097 01 OF 02 121730Z

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

REF: BONN 00736; STUTTGART 0240

1. SUMMARY. THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE REPORTED THAT IN FEBRUARY UNEMPLOYMENT "PEAKED" AT 1,183,500, 5.2 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE, AND CAN NOW BE EXPECTED TO DECLINE. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH THE JUDGMENT THAT UNEMPLOYMENT HAS REACHED ITS PEAK, THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE RELEASED LABOR MARKET STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY WHICH SHOWED THAT THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED HAD REACHED 1,183,500, 5.2 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE, THE HIGHEST SINCE FEBRUARY 1959. HE SAID HOWEVER THAT THE DOWNWARD TREND (OF THE ECONOMY) HAD NOT COME TO AN END, IMPLYING THAT HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR A MILD WINTER, UNEMPLOYMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN WORSE.

3. MOST OF THE TRENDS ESTABLISHED IN PREVIOUS MONTHS CONTINUE. AN ADDITIONAL 15,500 FIRMS RESORTED TO PART-TIME WORK BRINGING THE NUMBER OF WORKERS ON SHORT-TIME TO 956,500. FOREIGNERS CONTINUE TO BE MORE AFFECTED BY UNEMPLOYMENT THAN GERMANS. 60 PERCENT OF THOSE BECOMING UNEMPLOYED IN FEBRUARY WERE "GUEST WORKERS" BRINGING THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED IN THIS CATEGORY TO 170,000, 7.1 PERCENT OF THE FOREIGN LABOR FORCE.

4. THERE WAS A SLIGHT CHANGE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION. IN PAST MONTHS THE GREATEST NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED WAS FOUND IN THE METAL AND ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES. HOWEVER IN FEBRUARY THE BUILDING INDUSTRY WAS IN FIRST PLACE WITH 216,200. THE METAL AND ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES HAD 204,500 UNEMPLOYED, CLERICAL PROFESSIONS 118,800 AND THE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY 104,100.

5. ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, IT IS COMMONLY BELIEVED THAT UNEMPLOYMENT HAS PEAKED AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO IMPROVE IN THE COMING MONTHS FOR SEASONAL REASONS ALONE. ALSO THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BONN 04097 01 OF 02 121730Z

NUMBER OF JOB OPENINGS HAS CONTINUED TO RISE SLIGHTLY FOR THE SECOND MONTH AND NOW STANDS AT 246,236.

6. UNEMPLOYMENT IS A POLITICAL ISSUE, AND THE MONTHLY RELEASE OF LABOR MARKET STATISTICS INVITED A RESPONSE FROM THE PARTIES. THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS SATISFIED THAT SHORT-TIME IN FEBRUARY HAD NOT GREATLY INCREASED, A SIGN THAT GENERAL PESSIMISM WAS UNJUSTIFIED.

THE OPPOSITION CDU/CSU ECONOMIC SPOKESMAN RESPONDED SAY-  
ING THAT UNFORTUNATELY THE LATEST STATISTICS DID NOT IN-  
DICATE AN ECONOMIC REVIVAL OR CHANGE IN ECONOMIC TRENDS.  
CDU CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL CHARACTERIZED THE LATEST FIGURES  
AS "SHOCKINGLY HIGH" AND ACCUSED THE CABINET OF NEGLECT--  
ING THE ECONOMY. DGB SPOKESMEN CALLED THE SITUATION  
"ALARMING".

7. COMMENT. IT IS GENERALLY FELT THAT LABOR MARKET  
CONDITIONS WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE CRUCIAL  
MAY 4 ELECTION IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA (NRW) WHERE THE  
SPD-LED GOVERNMENT HAS SUPPLEMENTED THE FEDERAL PROGRAM  
TO CREATE JOBS WITH ITS OWN PROGRAM TO COMBAT UNEMPLOY-  
MENT. IN ADDITION TO PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MEASURES, THE  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT IN MID-APRIL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BONN 04097 02 OF 02 121728Z

50

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 CEA-01 NIC-01 /095 W  
----- 012652

R 121717Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8644  
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 04097

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BONN 04097 02 OF 02 121728Z

IT WILL BEGIN A NEW PROGRAM TO COMBAT YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT  
BY OFFERING ADDITIONAL SCHOOLING TO THOSE UNDER 18.

THERE ARE ALSO SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PRIVATE  
SECTOR WHICH AFFECT THE LABOR MARKET IN NRW. THE FORD  
AND OPEL PLANTS HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL RUN EXTRA  
SHIFTS IN APRIL INSTEAD OF RESORTING TO SHORT-TIME WORK  
AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED, AND ON MARCH 11, THE RUHR COAL  
COMPANY ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL BEGIN A ONE BILLION MARK  
INVESTMENT PROGRAM WHICH WILL INCLUDE BUILDING A NEW  
GENERATOR AND OPENING A NEW MINE.

NEVERTHELESS SOME BUSINESSMEN AND ECONOMIC ANALYSTS SAY  
THAT THE FEDERAL AND LAND PROGRAMS HAVE HAD LITTLE  
EFFECT ON THE ECONOMY. CERTAINLY STATISTICS RELEASED  
BY THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE DO NOT INDICATE THAT  
NRW IS HAVING PARTICULAR SUCCESS IN COMBATING UNEMPLOY-  
MENT WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER LAENDER. AT 5.0 PERCENT,  
THE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IS ONLY .2 BELOW THE NATIONAL  
AVERAGE AND THE 8.6 PERCENT INCREASE IN JOB OPENINGS IN  
FEBRUARY ALSO LAGGED BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF  
11.4 PERCENT INCREASE.

ALTHOUGH THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE FEDERAL AND LAND  
PROGRAMS CANNOT YET BE CLEARLY MEASURED, A POLL  
COMMISSIONED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NRW IMPLIES THAT THE  
VOTERS SEEM TO BE IMPRESSED BY GOVERNMENTAL EFFORTS.  
THE POLL CLAIMS THAT 53 PERCENT OF THOSE QUESTIONED BE-  
LIEVE THAT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT BEST GUARANTEES JOB  
SECURITY. THIS DOES NOT MEAN HOWEVER THAT THE GOVERN-

MENT IN NRW ENJOYS THE GENERAL SUPPORT OF 53 PERCENT  
OF THE POPULATION OR THAT IT CAN COUNT ON BEING RE-  
TURNED TO OFFICE IN MAY.  
HILLENBRAND

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, UNEMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC DATA, LABOR UNIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BONN04097  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750086-0892  
**From:** BONN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750360/aaaacbku.tel  
**Line Count:** 227  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BONN 00736, 75 STUTTGART 0240  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** woolflhd  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 SEP 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <31 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS  
**TAGS:** ELAB, GE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006